

ERRORS PIP WYCOMBE

Sutton 2 Wycombe Wand. 1

SUTTON took the points after a dour Isthmian League struggle.

Wycombe went ahead in the sixth minute when Horseman took a return pass from Hodges and scored off a post with goalkeeper Roffey going the wrong way.

There was little of the rhythm and bite which took them to Wembley last season in Sutton's play and not until a pulled muscle had made left-half Clack a passenger on the wing in the second half did they show any fire.

A Wycombe defence which packed its goal whenever danger threatened presented Sutton with a problem they never looked like solving, yet ultimately it was the defence which let the visitors down.

Lack of understanding between right-back Lewis and goalkeeper Syrett twice resulted in their colliding violently, and the second time the ball ran free for inside-right Osborne to score a simple 47th-minute equaliser.

Four minutes later the unhappy Lewis's cup overflowed when he intervened to divert a long shot by Powell past Syrett.

Evergreen Len Worley, the best winger on view, strove hard to rally Wycombe but with little support.

For Sutton Paul Bates, once Wycombe's leader, was a shrewd schemer, but he too was poorly supported.

Errors Cost Wycombe Points At Sutton

BY 'NOVA'

Sutton 2, Wycombe Wanderers 1

TWO tragic slips by Wycombe Wanderers right-back Alistair Lewis enabled Sutton to snatch both points in the clubs first-ever Isthmian League meeting on Saturday.

For Sutton the result meant revenge for their dismissal from the Amateur Cup competition two seasons ago, and for their coach, Sid Cann, and centre-forward Paul Bates, it meant success against their old club. But for Wycombe it meant the end of a run of four successive league victories.

Once again the Wanderers can blame no one but themselves for this defeat. They shot into an early lead and held on to it until just after half-time. Then in careless fashion they gave away two silly goals and were unable to overpower a Sutton side of only ten fit men.

Individually Sutton could not match Len Worley, Tony Horseman or Peter Roystone, but as a team they showed extra qualities—teamwork and enthusiasm—in spite of the fact that left-half Eddie Clack was no more than a limping passenger on the wing for almost all the second half. In contrast Wycombe seemed to play with the attitude "If we win we win, if we do not who cares".

TWO BLUNDERS

Blunder number one by Wycombe came two minutes after the interval, when Lewis, who previously had been playing well, let a long pass drop behind him and Osborne raced in to score.

Before he could settle down again, Lewis committed blunder number 2, when he allowed a harmless shot to bounce off his foot past the surprised Syrett.

After the first half of Sutton dominance, it was surprising that these were the only two goals scored by the home side. After recovering superbly from the shock of Horseman sidefooting a Hodges pass into their goal only two minutes after the start, and then seeing a Hodges header strike the bar, Sutton took charge.

With Bates lying deep and spraying passes to his wingers, and with the double-spearhead attack of Osborne and Hermitage, they pressed continuously. Yet despite all the pressure, the Wanderers' defence, superbly marshalled by Roystone, defied all the efforts to score until just after the interval.

THEIR CHANCE

After those two disastrous slips by Lewis, Sutton tried to consolidate their position but when the tireless Eddie Clack hobbled on to the wing with a knee injury Wycombe had their chance to fight back.

For a few minutes they looked as if they were going to make it. First Horseman had a great header pushed out in fine style by Roffey and seconds later Balson just failed to get a touch as the ball bobbed along the goal-line.

Minutes later the burly centre-forward, who had previously been given few opportunities, raced on to a long pass, swivelled past the centre-half, drew the goal-keeper and then watched in agony as his shot whisked inches wide of the post!

Perhaps disappointed that they could not claim the equaliser, perhaps because of the nagging injury received by Horseman, Wycombe grew less and less effective and Sutton were allowed to regain their poise and the initiative.

Individually it would be hard to criticise the Wycombe players. Beck showed some neat touches but was also guilty of holding the ball too long. Thomas lost his rhythm after the interval and Hodges often found Gamblin his match. But it was as a team they failed. A little concerted team effort and some fighting spirit could have won this match.

Sutton—D. Roffey, D. Gamblin, J. Shears, E. Powell, A. McGuinness, E. Clack, A. Wilkin, R. Osborne, P. Bates, D. Hermitage, M. Goodall.

Wycombe—D. Syrett, A. Lewis, G. Pullin, D. Thomas, P. Roystone, C. Gale, L. Worley, J. Beck, J. Balson, T. Horseman, P. Hodges.